



# LIBERTI

## Home Meeting Discussion, Week of 5/6

"The Image of God as Male and Female, part 2"

*Texts: Genesis 3:8-13; Ruth 4:1-9; Ephesians 5:21-33*

1. Last week, some of our home meetings began with acknowledging our own histories with ideas of masculinity/femininity in general, and in the church. Feel free to do that again if you find it helpful.
2. How are you challenged by any or all of the above passages? How do they stir you?
3. Some different portraits of manhood/masculinity (both positive and negative) were drawn out of the Genesis and Ruth texts. Where are these passages leading us? What do they call us to repent of? What do they call us to pursue? How do they call us to encourage one another?
4. In the Ephesians 5 passage, start by looking at verse 25-32, and ask, "what is this passage telling us about Christ's love for us"? There are at least 10 things that it says about Christ's love for us, and there are dozens of further implications. In fact, I wonder if your entire discussion shouldn't be spent doing just this exercise — sometimes we are so focused on roles that we miss what this passage simply says about Christ's love (if ever I am preaching on Ephesians again I will slow way down and focus solely on this for a sermon or two).

*Then* let this challenge how we view marriage.

5. Where do we see the strengths of men in our church? Where do we see men imitating Christ? (We asked the same question about women in our church last week — feel free to again raise female strengths in our church in conversation with this question.)
6. How do these texts lead us to pray for our church and community?

**Common Reading & Listening:**

(as an alternative to HM questions any given week)

1. Have someone read the passage aloud. Followed the reading with three or four minutes of silence. Invite everyone to make a note of something that struck them.
2. Have someone read the passage a second time, and afterwards give everyone a few minutes to ponder these three simple questions: What does this passage say about God (Father, Son, or Spirit)? What does this passage say about us (as saints, sufferers, or sinners)? In light of this, what is this passage inviting us to believe, pray, or do?
3. Invite people to share their answers to these questions, and let these things lead the discussion (while remembering the sermon as an anchor for application if needed/desired).

**Scripture Memorization for May:**

Matthew 5:1-12